

The Pipeline

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Adoption Reimbursement Is Newest Benefit for State Employees

By Patricia Loman

The newest benefit for employees of state government also benefits children and society at large. Gov. Paul Patton announced an adoption benefits program at a news conference last week.

State employees can be reimbursed thousands of dollars for the direct cost of adoptions. These expenses would include legal and medical bills, as well as adoption agency fees. The limits are \$5,000 for the adoption of a "special-needs" child and \$3,000 for the adoption of any other child.

Gov. Patton also ordered state agencies to provide personal leave time equally for adoptive parents and biological parents. Besides the cash benefit, adoption cost reimbursements can be excluded from taxes under state and federal tax codes.

The statewide Adoption 2002 task force, which includes many staff from the Cabinet for Families and Children, had recommended the adoption benefits. Other major supporters of this initiative include former Gov. Wallace Wilkinson, his wife, Martha, and Dave Thomas. Thomas, who was adopted at six weeks of age and is the founder of the Wendy's fast-food chain, has lobbied Congress for adoption tax credits. Wendy's provides benefits for employees who adopt, and regularly asks other corporations to adopt the concept for their workers.

The reimbursement should entice some state employees who have considered adoption but didn't think they could afford it. Kentucky is one of only three states so far, including South Carolina and Utah, to add adoption benefits for its employees.

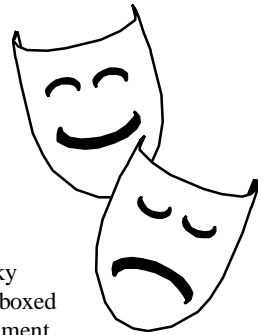
A Nov. 4 editorial in the Lexington Herald-Leader praised the governor's action as "family friendly" and said it went "hand in hand with his proposals to make adoptions easier." The editorial called it "a step toward moving a larger number of children out of the revolving door of foster care and group homes and into more stable environments."

CFC Family Follies A Big Hit

By Patricia Loman

More than 150 people gathered in the CHR Cafeteria on Wednesday for the CFC Family Follies. Admission, a \$5 donation to Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign, included a boxed lunch and some of the most talented entertainment this side of the Mississippi.

Prizes were awarded for the funniest and most original acts. The Dream Ghouls (pictured below-left), who lip-synched to "Shoop-Shoop", won Funniest Act. Chris Simpson, Todd Mobley, and David Clark (below-right) won Most Original Act for their instrumental performance.



All proceeds were to benefit KECC. Thanks to everyone who participated for making this year's CFC Family Follies such a great success. We look forward to next year's Follies!

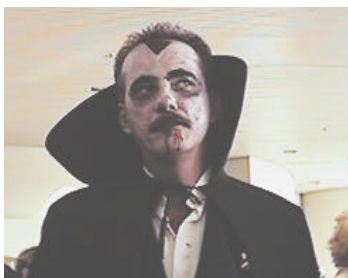
Pipeline, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for *Pipeline* are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays; items for intercom announcements are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. Send information to Patricia Loman at ploman@mail.state.ky.us.

"It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown!"

By Patricia Loman

OK, maybe we didn't have a pumpkin, but we did have witches, a vampire, an Indian, an angel and even Sylvester that cat, not to mention a rather rough looking group of gangsters and MORE! Everyone had a great time raising money for KECC by participating in the Halloween Costume Contest on Friday, Oct. 30. The contest was sponsored by the Department for Employment Services.

Nearly \$200 was raised for KECC. Donations were taken, one penny per vote, for each person's favorite contest participant. Mark Anglin took home the winning trophy after raising over \$77 with his Dracula costume.



Mark Anglin casts a spell-binding glare after the parade of costumes on Friday afternoon.



Central Office Notes and Activities

- ✓ **Buy a CHS-KECC Cookbook.** This \$7 cookbook is filled with delicious recipes from CHS employees. They make great Christmas gifts. All proceeds benefit the Kentucky Employee Charitable Campaign. Cookbooks are available at the 4th floor information desk in the CHR building. You can make checks payable to KECC.
- ✓ **Capital City Optimist Club** which supports the Special Friends Mentoring Program, will hold a dinner theater on the evenings of Nov. 12 and 13 at the First Baptist Church to raise money for their youth projects. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., and the show will start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person. To make reservations, call Peggy Williams at 223-1379.
- ✓ **Wakeup Wednesday, Nov. 18:** "Humor Me: The Positive Effects of Humor in the Workplace." Presented by Priscilla McCowan in the the Health Services Auditorium from 8:30 – 10 a.m.

Central State Earns Kentucky Quality Award

By Gil Lawson

Central State Hospital in Louisville was among 37 organizations and businesses that were recognized during the second annual Commonwealth of Kentucky Quality Awards banquet.

Central State Hospital received a Quality Achievement Award at the Oct. 28 ceremonies. The awards are modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, which was established by Congress to enhance competitiveness by promoting quality awareness, to recognize achievements and to publicize successful performance.

Central State Hospital is a psychiatric hospital operated by the Department for Mental Health-Mental Retardation Services.

"We are very proud that Central State Hospital has been recognized with this award," said Mental Health-Mental Retardation Services Commissioner Elizabeth Wachtel. "This award is a recognition of the hard work by the entire hospital staff in the areas of performance, improvement and quality."

To apply for the award, organizations must submit detailed information showing how they have implemented an effective performance management system. An independent board of 120 examiners, all subject matter and quality experts, evaluate the applications. They look for achievements and improvement in seven areas: leadership; strategic planning; customer and market focus; information and analysis; human resource development and management; process management; and business results.

"Three years ago we embarked on a strategic plan to be recognized as a premier mental health facility providing benchmark psychiatric care," said Paula Tamme, the director of Central State. "The Quality Award is an additional recognition of the employees' continuing efforts to achieve this vision."

An Angel Among Us

This little angel was spotted roaming the halls among the ghosts and goblins last Friday. Her name is Sierra, and she is the daughter of Necole Newton, who works for Family Support Accounting on the 5th floor. Isn't she a DOLL!?

